

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 9, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 44

Introduced by Assembly Member Hill
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Huffman and Nava)

June 14, 2010

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 44—Relative to marine mammal conservation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 44, as amended, Hill. Commercial whaling: ~~moratoriums~~ *moratoriums*.

This measure would request that the President and the Congress of the United States provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks. This measure would memorialize the Legislature’s opposition to *any proposal that would result in* the International Whaling Commission’s ~~proposal to lift~~ *lifting of* the current moratorium on commercial whaling, which would legalize commercial whaling, ~~leave enforcement of~~ *authorize* new whaling quotas ~~to~~ *for* nations that have been violating the current moratorium, and allow the resumption of whale hunting in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Whales are evolutionarily complex, highly
- 2 intelligent, and extremely important for the health and viability of
- 3 ocean ecosystems; and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 1982, the International Whaling Commission
- 5 voted to implement a pause on commercial whaling beginning in

1 1986 in order to allow significantly depleted whale stocks to
2 recover and quotas on whales were set to zero; and

3 ~~WHEREAS, On April 15, 2010, the United States announced~~
4 ~~its intention to broker an agreement that would allow commercial~~
5 ~~whale hunting~~ *At the June, 2010 meeting of the International*
6 *Whaling Commission in Agadir, Morocco, the United States*
7 *actively negotiated in support of a draft proposal that would have*
8 *authorized commercial whaling activity for the countries of Japan,*
9 *Iceland, and Norway* for the first time since the moratorium was
10 enacted in 1986; and

11 WHEREAS, California is a coastal state dedicated to the
12 protection of our marine mammal populations, fisheries, and ocean
13 resources; and

14 WHEREAS, California's ocean waters support several species
15 of whales, including blue whales, gray whales, pilot whales, fin
16 whales, humpbacks, and orcas, all of which have special biological,
17 ecological, aesthetic, cultural, political, and symbolic qualities and
18 are particularly sensitive to the threats of whale hunting; and

19 WHEREAS, The protection of whales is of the utmost
20 importance to Californians and our state's coastal and
21 ocean-dependent industries, including tourism; and

22 WHEREAS, Whaling, pollution, and climate change threaten
23 these peaceful creatures; and

24 WHEREAS, Whaling has decimated these once abundant
25 species, including the blue whale, which has gone from a
26 population of several hundred thousand to near extinction and only
27 an estimated 5,000 to 12,000 blue whales remain throughout the
28 world; and

29 WHEREAS, The whaling moratorium has staved off extinction,
30 but must remain in place to support a population of many different
31 species of whales that continue to struggle; and

32 WHEREAS, Lifting the moratorium could result in significant,
33 irreversible, and harmful consequences to whale populations; and

34 WHEREAS, California has led the way in marine responsibility
35 and in 2008, the Legislature passed Assembly Joint Resolution
36 49, which calls on the National Marine Fisheries Service to
37 undertake an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the
38 California gray whale to determine if the gray whale should be
39 added to the endangered species list; and

1 WHEREAS, Legalizing commercial whaling, which would
2 decimate whale stocks, is contrary to our state's goal of protecting
3 our marine mammal populations, fisheries, and ocean resources;
4 now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
6 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
7 respectfully requests that the President and the Congress of the
8 United States do everything in their power to provide for the proper
9 conservation of whale stocks; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California
11 respectfully opposes *any proposal that would result in the*
12 *International Whaling Commission's proposal to lift the lifting of*
13 *the commercial whaling moratorium*, which would legalize
14 commercial whaling, ~~leave enforcement of~~ *authorize* new whaling
15 quotas ~~to~~ *for* nations that have been violating the current
16 moratorium, and allow whale hunting in the Southern Ocean Whale
17 Sanctuary; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
19 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
20 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
21 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
22 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
23 States.